

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office Action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Applicants respectfully traverse the §112 rejections with the following arguments.

35 U.S.C. §112

The Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, allegedly because "the recitation "the voltage level" on line 13 lacks clear antecedent basis". In response, Applicants have amended claim 1 to read "a voltage level" instead of "the voltage level" so as to make claim 1 not indefinite under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Applicants have also amended claims 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 16, 18, and 20 to read "a voltage level" instead of "the voltage level" so as to make these claims not indefinite under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

The Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, allegedly because "the recitation "t1 and t2" on line 13 is confusing..." In response, Applicants would like to note that in a telephone conversation between the Examiner (Dinh Le) and Applicants' representative (Khoi Nguyen of Schmeiser, Olse & Watts LLP) on Thursday, June 2, 2005, the Examiner suggested to Applicants' representative that the Examiner no longer objects to the use of "t1" and "t2" on line 12 of claim 1, although the Examiner so objected in the Office Action mailed on March 8, 2005. Applicants thank the Examiner for this.

The Examiner also rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, allegedly because "...it is unclear how the "logic gate", "the first circuit" and "the second circuits can be "configured" to switch states since they cannot switch by themselves..." In response, Applicants have amended claims 1 to read "...wherein the first input transistor is configured to switch states in response to a voltage level of a gate terminal of the first input transistor ..." In other words, the first input transistor does not switch by itself, but switches states if triggered by

"a voltage level of a gate terminal of the first input transistor". Similarly, the first and second circuits do not switch states by themselves, but switch states "in response to the first input transistor switching states".

Similarly, Applicants have also amended claim 9 to read "switching states of the first input transistor in response to a voltage level of a gate terminal of the first input transistor..." As a result, as explained above for claim 1, claim 9 is also not indefinite under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Applicants would like to note that in the same telephone conversation between the Examiner and Applicants' representative, the Examiner objected to the use of the term "logic gate" and suggested the use of the term "transistor" instead of "logic gate". Applicants thank the Examiner for the suggestion, but "transistor" would make the scopes of the claims too narrow. Therefore, Applicants would like to use "transistor circuit" instead of just "transistor". Accordingly, Applicants have changed throughout the claims from "circuit logic gate" to "transistor circuit", from "input logic gate" to "input transistor", from "pull-up logic gate" to "pull-up transistor circuit", from "gate-terminal logic gate" to "gate-terminal transistor circuit", from "cross-output logic gate" to "cross-output transistor circuit", and from "latch logic gate" to "latch transistor circuit".

The Examiner also rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, allegedly because "...it is unclear...how the recitation "first circuit logic gate" on line 4, "first input logic gate" on line 8, "first circuit capacitor", "first circuit" and "second circuit" are read on the

preferred embodiment. Insofar as understood, no such circuits, gate and capacitor are not seen on the drawings." In response, Applicants have amended claim 1. As a result, Applicants respectfully note that "the first transistor circuit" of claim 1 is supported by the transistors M3a and M3b of FIGs. 2 and 4, respectively, of the specification. Similarly, "the first input transistor" of claim 1 is supported by the transistors M1a and M1b of FIGs. 2 and 4, respectively, of the specification. Similarly, "the first circuit capacitor" of claim 1 is supported by the capacitors C3a and C3b of FIGs. 2 and 4, respectively, of the specification. Similarly, "the first circuit" of claim 1 is supported by the transistors M9a and M9b of FIGs. 2 and 4, respectively, of the specification. Finally, "the second circuit" of claim 1 is supported by the transistors M10a and M10b of FIGs. 2 and 4, respectively, of the specification.

As a result, claim 1 is not indefinite under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Similarly, other claims that contain the components "'first transistor circuit", "first input transistor", "first circuit capacitor", "first circuit", and "second circuit" are also not indefinite under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

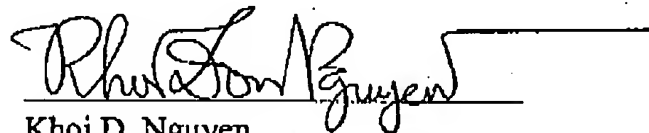
The Examiner rejected claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, allegedly because "the recitation "its resistance" on line 8 lacks clear antecedent basis." In response, Applicants have amended claim 17 to read "wherein the first impedance circuit is configured such that **a resistance** of the first impedance circuit changes in response to a control signal" (bold emphasis added). As a result, claim 17 is now not indefinite under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

The Examiner also rejected claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, allegedly because “[i]t is unclear how the impedance circuit and the latch can be "configured" to change the resistance and states”. In response, Applicants would like to note that claim 17 reads “wherein the first impedance circuit is configured such that a resistance of the first impedance circuit changes **in response to a control signal**” (bold emphasis added). In other words, the resistance of the first impedance circuit does not change by itself, but changes in response to “a control signal”. Similarly, the latch does not switch states by itself, but switches states “in response to the input transistor switching states” as recited in claim 17. As a result, claim 17 is now not indefinite under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

CONCLUSION

Based on the preceding arguments, Applicants respectfully believe that all pending claims and the entire application meet the acceptance criteria for allowance and therefore request favorable action. If the Examiner believes that anything further would be helpful to place the application in better condition for allowance, Applicants invites the Examiner to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below. The Director is hereby authorized to charge and/or credit Deposit Account 09-0456.

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Khoi D. Nguyen

Registration No. 47,820

Schmeiser, Olsen & Watts
3 Lear Jet Lane, Suite 201
Latham, New York 12110
(518) 220-1850

Serial No.: 10/707,250

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